

Appl. No. 10/017,096  
Amdt. Dated September 17, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 83380.0001

**Amendments to Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. - 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A data processing apparatus according to claim [[11]] 36, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting the print [[job]] data and an instruction to execute printing of the print [[job]] data to the selected image processing apparatus [[selected by the selector]].

13. (currently amended) A data processing apparatus according to claim [[11]] 36, wherein the selector selects an image processing apparatus with the lowest cost.

14. (currently amended) A data processing apparatus according to claim [[11]] 36, wherein the print [[job]] data includes data in portable document format (PDF).

15. (currently amended) A data processing apparatus according to claim [[11]] 36, wherein the selector uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, printing condition data associated with the print data received through the network including at least one of a size of paper, a type of paper, whether or not a two-sided printing is conducted, whether or not a binding process is conducted after printing, whether or not a stapling process is conducted after printing, a method of delivery after printing, and the number of prints, which are obtained from the print job by the analyzer.

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16. (currently amended) A data processing apparatus according to claim [[11]] 36, wherein the selector uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, at least one of the number of pages of images and the consumption amount of consumables, ~~which are obtained from the print job by the analyzer.~~

17. (currently amended) A data processing apparatus according to claim [[11]] 36, wherein the selector uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, a rate of black and white image and color image to be formed, ~~which is analyzed by the analyzer.~~

18. - 21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[21]] 37, further comprising [[a step of transmission for]] transmitting to the selected image processing apparatus [[selected in the selection step]] the print [[job]] data and an instruction to execute printing of the print [[job]] data.

23. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the [[selection]] selecting step selects an image processing apparatus with the lowest cost.

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the print [[job]] data includes data in portable document format (PDF).

25. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the [[selection]] selecting step uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, printing condition data associated with the print data received through

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the network including at least one of a size of paper, a type of paper, whether or not a two-sided printing is conducted, whether or not a binding process is conducted after printing, whether or not a stapling process is conducted after printing, a method of delivery after printing, and the number of prints, ~~which are obtained in the analyzing step.~~

26. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the [[selection]] selecting step uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, at least one of the number of pages of images and the consumption amount of consumables, ~~which are obtained from the print job in the analyzing step.~~

27. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the [[selection]] selecting step uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, a rate of black and white image and color image to be formed, ~~which is analyzed in the analyzing step.~~

28. - 32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A computer program according to claim [[32]] 38, further comprising:

program code [[embedding a transmission step]] for transmitting to the selected image processing apparatus [[selected by the selection step]] the print [[job]] data and an instruction to execute printing of the print [[job]] data.

34. (currently amended) A computer readable memory that stores the computer program recited in claim [[32]] 38.

35. (original) A computer readable memory that stores the computer program recited in claim 33.

36. (new) A data processing apparatus adapted for communicating with a client and a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a network, comprising:

a storage device for storing data representing characteristics of each of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

a calculation section for receiving print data through the network, the print data being in a format non-specific to the plurality of image processing apparatuses, for generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each image data being specific to one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatuses; and

a selector for selecting one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

37. (new) A method for processing data in a data processing apparatus in communication with a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a network, comprising:

storing data representing characteristics of each of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

receiving print data through the network, the print data being in a format non-specific to the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

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generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each image data being specific to one of the plurality of image processing apparatus;

generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatuses; and

selecting one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

38. (new) A computer program executed by a computer of a data processing apparatus adapted for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a network, comprising:

program code for receiving print data through the network, the print data being in a format non-specific to the plurality of image processing apparatuses,

program code for generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on stored data representing characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each image data being specific to one of the plurality of image processing apparatus,

program code for generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatuses; and

program code for selecting one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

(Concluded)